



## The Obadiah Allegory (Obadiah 1)

**Introduction:** *For our purposes today in the exploration of Obadiah, we are not going to emphasize the historic biblical detail about the characters and their controversy (i.e. between Esau and Jacob). But, instead, we are going to examine the vision of Obadiah from an allegorical position. In other words, we are going to extract the parable or symbolism of what the prophet is seeing, instead of focusing on the actual characters and events. This in no way is intended to diminish the truth and accuracy of what was actually being prophesied, but rather is meant to expose a pattern how Yahweh views atrocities and injustice in the earth, and how He eventually executes judgment on those who have schemed against Him.*

**You think you got away with it...**

“The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom (We have heard a report from the Lord, And **a messenger has been sent among the nations**, saying, “**Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle**”): “Behold, **I will make you small among the nations; You shall be greatly despised. The pride of your heart has deceived you**, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, ‘**Who will bring me down to the ground?**’ Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you

set your nest among the stars, **From there I will bring you down,**" says the Lord. "If thieves had come to you, If robbers by night— **Oh, how you will be cut off!**— Would they not have stolen till they had enough? If grape-gatherers had come to you, Would they not have left some gleanings? **"Oh, how Esau shall be searched out! How his hidden treasures shall be sought after!** All the men in your confederacy Shall force you to the border; **The men at peace with you Shall deceive you and prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you.** No one is aware of it. "Will I not in that day," says the Lord, **"Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And understanding from the mountains of Esau?** Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of **Esau May be cut off by slaughter.**" Obadiah 1:1-9 NKJV

## **Obadiah 1:1-9**

☑ *"The vision of Obadiah. Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom (**We have heard a report from the Lord, And a messenger has been sent among the nations, saying, "Arise, and let us rise up against her for battle"**):" Obadiah 1:1 NKJV*

### ☑ **A Prophetic Vision**

☑ Yahweh has decided in this moment to reveal a specific message to His servant. He has been watching what has

taken place and He has a warning for those who have oppressed His people.

☑ **A messenger has been sent...**

- ☑ This is exactly how we should understand the prophetic. In contrast to personal prophecy which is more pastoral in nature, meaning, its purpose is to direct, encourage, rebuke or warn someone regarding their personal lives, this, instead, is meant to move peoples and nations. The purpose of the prophetic is to cause a universal shift in direction by mobilizing a force for Yahweh.

☑ **Arise!**

- ☑ The time has come to rise up against the enemies of God. And this is precisely why I have chosen to use the vision of Obadiah from an allegorical viewpoint today. I believe it is time to rise up—not to raise a physical army—but rather to equip a spiritual army against those who hate Yahweh and Y’shua!

- ☑ *“Behold, **I will make you small among the nations**; You shall be greatly **despised**.” Obadiah 1:2 NKJV*

☑ **God’s enemies have enjoyed seeming prominence...**

- ☑ For a long time you have fancied yourself quite mighty and maybe even impermeable. But as strong as you think

you are is how weak you will be exposed to be. As admired as you feel now is how despised you will know you are then!

☑ *“**The pride of your heart has deceived you**, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in your heart, ‘**Who will bring me down to the ground?**’ Though you ascend as high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, **From there I will bring you down**,” says the Lord.” Obadiah 1:3-4 NKJV*

☑ **Pride and Deception**

☑ Pride always comes before the fall (Proverbs 16:18). It is the great deceiver. At its root is idolatry. And at the root of idolatry is putting yourself above Yahweh. It matters not what the category—any time you place your thoughts, your desires, your laws, your ambitions, your priorities, your viewpoints, your ANYTHING, before Yahweh, that is PRIDE. Live in it long enough and the world you’ve created around you, in its entirety, will be a house of card built on a foundation of sand (See Matthew 7:24-37).

- What is the ultimate deception here? That you think you are protected—that you have guarded yourself on all sides and therefore nothing can touch you!
- I'm above it all...**
  - You have set yourself so high above everything that you cannot be touched. Like an eagle that is capable of flying at the highest altitudes and building nests in the most unaccessible locations, you are safe from any possible assault against your kingdom.
  - But you're wrong...**
    - The fact that you have flown so high as to avoid any challenge to your indisputable authority, only means that you must fall so much further. But, be not mistaken; you will fall.
- ““If **thieves** had come to you, If robbers by night— Oh, how you will be cut off!— **Would they not have stolen till they had enough?** If **grape-gatherers** had come to you, Would they not have **left some gleanings?**” Obadiah 1:5 NKJV*
- It's going to be way worse than you can imagine...**
  - You see, if your punishment were to be limited, let's say, to the horrible experience of your home being robbed by

a thief—or your store being invaded and your merchandise being carried off, you'd be lucky.

- ☑ But it won't be like that. Your fall will be much, much worse. You see, thieves could not strip you bare. There is a limitation of what they could carry off and invariably you'd be left with something after you've been robbed. But the judgment Yahweh is about to bring down on you, what your fall from the highest place will look like, is total and complete. It will be an utter reversal of your "good fortune". And your fortune that will be stripped from you goes well beyond the physical. When Yahweh says you will utterly fall, He means in every way. Not only your tangible items will be gone, but you will be void of all security, prestige, power, peace, and well-being. You are going to lose everything.

- ☑ *““Oh, how Esau **shall be searched out!** How his **hidden treasures** shall be sought after!” Obadiah 1:6 NKJV*

- ☑ **And if you think you can hide anything...**

- ☑ You're deceiving yourself. Every aspect of every thing you've ever depended on to craft your identity; anything you have that has been used in any way to oppose

Yahweh will be searched out and destroyed. Nothing can be hidden from his sight.

☑ **Anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God is coming down...**

☑ *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV*

☑ **There is no creature hidden from His sight...**

☑ *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.** And **there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV*

☑ *“**All the men in your confederacy** Shall force you to the border; **The men at peace with you** Shall deceive you and*

***prevail against you. Those who eat your bread shall lay a trap for you. No one is aware of it.” Obadiah 1:7 NKJV***

☑ **And what will be so interesting to watch is this...**

☑ Your destruction will all start from the inside. It will be infighting and backbiting that initiates the cancer. It will be internal disagreements and power struggles because the need for greed and power can never be satisfied and Satan has no allegiance to the ones who worship him. Those who have been in your inner circle, those who you've enjoyed total piece with, those with whom you've shared meals, will be the first to come against you.

☑ And the real problem with that is that there are no walls that can keep them out because they are already on the inside. So, you'll have to sleep with one eye open from now on, as there is no security force or defense against your "friends." This is like a slow death because already your inner piece is fading. Who could have any joy at all when you know that even your best friends are about to knife you in the back?

☑ **God's enemies will destroy one another...**

☑ **Read all of Psalm 37:** *“The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct. **Their***



***sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.***” Psalms 37:14-15 NKJV

☑ ““Will I not in that day,” says the Lord, “**Even destroy the wise men from Edom, And *understanding from the mountains* of Esau? Then your mighty men, O Teman, shall be dismayed, To the end that everyone from the mountains of Esau **May be cut off by slaughter.**” Obadiah 1:8-9 NKJV**

☑ **Your worldly wisdom and understanding can't protect you...**

☑ No one on Yahweh's wrong side is safe. I don't care how smart you are or how strategic you are, or how deep into the inner circle you are, you are going down. It matters not how high you are or how important you've been deemed to be, you are going down. You might be sitting on the mountaintop overlooking it all—but the utter slaughter of the enemies of Yahweh will reach even you!

### **The Indictment against God's Enemies**

““For **violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever.** In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem—

Even you were as one of them. “But you should not have gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; Nor should you have rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; Nor should you have spoken proudly In the day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, you should not have gazed on their affliction In the day of their calamity, Nor laid hands on their substance In the day of their calamity. You should not have stood at the crossroads To cut off those among them who escaped; Nor should you have delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress. “For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been.” Obadiah 1:10-16 NKJV

### Obadiah 1:10-16

☑ ““For *violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever. In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast*

*lots for Jerusalem— Even you were as one of them.” Obadiah  
1:10-11 NKJV*

☑ **The indictment against God’s enemies starts here...**

☑ We started off on the same team. For instance, we are all Americans, whom, through the sacrifice of brave men and women, were freed from the tyranny of an oppressive king and kingdom.

☑ **Now some of you have become traitors...**

☑ When you saw the opportunity to get something more for yourself, when foreign pressures and outside promises offered you opportunity to rise above your brother, even if you had to violate the very beliefs and victories that gave you freedom in the first place, you chose greed and gain over loyalty.

☑ As outside influences and lies, as values foreign to who we are, invaded our land, you stood by and watched. As these ethical atrocities settled in all around us, you were not just guilty of saying nothing, no, even worse. You joined them, you embraced them. It’s as if those Godless atrocities and beliefs were perfectly fine with you and they became who you are.

☑ You embraced them so dearly that you began to legislate them into the very fabric of your culture.

☑ *““But you **should not have** gazed on the day of your brother In the day of his captivity; **Nor should you have** rejoiced over the children of Judah In the day of their destruction; **Nor should you have spoken proudly** In the day of distress. You **should not have entered the gate** of My people In the day of their calamity. Indeed, **you should not have gazed on their affliction** In the day of their calamity, **Nor laid hands on their substance** In the day of their calamity. **You should not have stood at the crossroads** To cut off those among them who escaped; **Nor should you have** delivered up those among them who remained In the day of distress. Obadiah 1:12-14 NKJV*

☑ **You should not have done that...**

☑ You picked the wrong side. You should not have stood by and watched, and then even rejoiced and participated in, the destruction of a culture that was originally founded on God.

☑ **You should not have done that...**

☑ And then you participated, not only in the rape of their morality, but you proceeded in stealing their resources. It's a good way to keep your opponent down. Apprehend any resources they have that they could use to fight back.

But you made a strategic error. Because that is the very thing that triggers God's intervention!

☑ **You should not have done that...**

- ☑ Do you think you can be so evil as to prevent God's people from removing themselves from the line of fire, and get away with it? Do you think you can be such a traitor that you actually bring charges against God's people for simply standing up for what this nation was founded on in the first place? Every one of these offenses is being catalogued and the enemies of Yahweh will be held accountable for every one of them!

☑ **When God's people reach a point when they cannot defend themselves...**

- ☑ **Human weakness activates God's power**— *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For **when I am weak, then I am strong.**"* II Corinthians 12:10 NKJV

- ☑ **Yahweh will fight for you**— *"And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,** which He will accomplish for you today. For **the Egyptians** whom you see today, you shall see again **no more** forever. **The Lord will fight for you,** and you shall hold your peace.""* Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV

☑ *““For **the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.**” Obadiah 1:15 NKJV*

☑ **The day to be held accountable is quickly approaching...**

☑ It may seem like all things evil can keep going on and on forever. I often hear people say after lies are exposed, names are named, undeniable evidence is presented, “But nothing ever happens to them...” It can be frustrating to witness—but rest assured, the day is coming.

☑ **It’s a simple, but undeniable fact!**

☑ *“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.” Luke 6:31 NKJV*

☑ You want something? You can be guaranteed to get it simply by giving what you want to others. You want to be treated a certain way; treat others that way.

☑ All I can say is that if you deal treacherously with people, you are asking God to deal treacherously with you. Yahweh is assuring God’s people, through the vision of Obadiah, that as his enemies have done, surely it will be done to them...no matter how long it takes.

☑ **I love how Peter assures us of this...**

- ☑ **Men are prone to forget that God always does what He says He will do, no matter how long it takes—** *“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”* **For this they willfully forget:** *that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”* II Peter 3:3-7 NKJV
- ☑ **God is not slack—simply patient—** *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”* II Peter 3:8-9 NKJV

☑ *“For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as **though they had never been.**” Obadiah 1:16 NKJV*

☑ **Whatever you faced because of them...**

☑ Whatever persecution you faced because of them will be the persecution they face. In the end it will be as if they never existed.

## **Deliverance**

““But on Mount Zion **there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness;** The house of Jacob **shall possess their possessions.** The house of Jacob **shall be a fire,** And the house of Joseph **a flame;** But **the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau,**” For the Lord has spoken. The South shall possess the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall possess Philistia. They shall possess the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall possess Gilead. And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall possess the land of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Shall possess the cities of the South. Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the



mountains of Esau, **And the kingdom shall be the Lord's.**" Obadiah 1:17-21 NKJV

## Obadiah 1:17-21

- ☑ *““But on Mount Zion **there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness;** The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.” Obadiah 1:17 NKJV*
- ☑ **The mountain that was usurped by the enemy...**
  - ☑ It will fall back into the hands of God's people. And it will be possessed in purity and holiness. And everything that has ever been stolen from God's people will be restored!
- ☑ *“The **house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame;** But **the house of Esau shall be stubble;** They shall kindle them and devour them, And **no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau,**” For the Lord has spoken.” Obadiah 1:18 NKJV*
- ☑ **Fire and Flames**
  - ☑ The power of God will be displayed through His people and will fry God's enemies! It's a bit gruesome, but the bottom line is that not one enemy of God will survive.

☑ *“The South shall **possess** the mountains of Esau, And the Lowland shall **possess** Philistia. They shall **possess** the fields of Ephraim And the fields of Samaria. Benjamin shall **possess** Gilead. And the captives of this host of the children of Israel Shall **possess** the land of the Canaanites As far as Zarephath. The captives of Jerusalem who are in Sepharad Shall **possess** the cities of the South.” Obadiah 1:19-20 NKJV*

☑ **Possess**

☑ All of God’s promises will end in the hands of God’s people.

☑ *“Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion To judge the mountains of Esau, And the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.” Obadiah 1:21 NKJV*

☑ **Saviors?**

☑ I think there is no better way to explain the idea of who these saviors are than to go back for a moment and review Paul’s words in II Corinthians that we read earlier in this study. The saviors will judge! [For a deep dive into your role and responsibility to righteously judge, see the teaching [You Have it in You...](#)] Theme: “You have it in you to execute God’s judgment.”

- ☑ *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.**” II Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV*
- ☑ Our job, yes our job, is to cast down anything that comes against Yahweh. But, in order to do so we must be prepared. How?
- ☑ We must bring every thought into obedience to Christ!
- ☑ Then, once our obedience is fulfilled, be ready to punish all disobedience!
- ☑ **The Kingdom**
- ☑ Y’shua is not returning to establish a kingdom; He is returning to an established kingdom. And that is our number one job!

### **NEXT WEEK**

Spots in Your Love Feasts (Jude 1)